



The End of Year Newsletter St Antony's Newsletter

God of wisdom, we thank you for all the gifts you have given us throughout this school year. We praise you for giving us life, for saving us in Christ, and for choosing us to be your people.

As we come to the end of this school year, we voice our gratitude for the good things you have done in us, and we praise you for all who have shared in the work of this school.

We ask that you bless them in your love and give them refreshment and peace. We praise you, God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns forever and ever.

Amen

Mrs McGowan's Message



Dear families,

What an incredible year we have had! It has flown past too fast!

As we close the door on another incredible school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the truly outstanding achievements and experiences that have made 2024–25 so memorable for our entire St Antony's family.

We were immensely proud to receive **exemplary feedback** from both our **Ofsted** and **Religious Education inspections**, including "**outstanding**" statements in many areas—a testament to the dedication, hard work, and faith-filled commitment of our staff, pupils, and wider community. You can read our reports on our website.

This year saw the **official opening of our beautiful Chapel**, blessed by **Bishop John Arnold**, a deeply spiritual and significant milestone for us all. Our voices soared as we sang at **The Laudato Si Centre** and our pupils' creative talents shone through in **songwriting and recording projects** for the Diocese. There were three Nativities this year, EYFS, KS1 and the staff production! **Year 6's Matilda** production was West End worthy!

Exciting developments in our facilities included the launch of our brand-new **MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area)**, which has already hosted **inter-school competitions**, fostering teamwork, sportsmanship, and community spirit. We also extended our **wraparound care** to support families from **7:30am to 6:00pm**, and added **new outdoor resources** in the forest, including a fantastic new **stage**.

We continue to be a beacon of good practice in education. Our school was chosen as a **filming location for teaching adverts** and is now a **model of great practice** for the **National Institute of Teaching**. I've had the privilege of delivering training to **aspiring headteachers**, while **Mr Hall, Miss Thomas, and Mrs Macneal** have been sharing their expertise in **assessment** with the **Local Authority**, and **Mrs Malak** has provided RE leadership support across the borough. We will continue our project with the NHS for **PINS (partnership for inclusion of neurodiversity in school)** next year after a successful first year.

We were also **nominated** for a **Mindfulness Award**, and our efforts in Eco work and embracing Laudato Si values were formally recognised with a prestigious **Live Simply Award**. Meanwhile, our **Nursery continues to thrive**, with full-time places supporting our youngest learners on their journey.

Of course, no year at St Antony's would be complete without the **joyful madness** of events like **GTBG (Good to Be Green)** days, our much-loved **Talent Show**, and all the celebrations, awards, and presentations that make our school community such a joyful, vibrant place to be.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership throughout the year. Don't forget to **follow us on Instagram @stantonysrc1** to see the magic in action—and please **like and share** to spread the good news!

Wishing you all a restful and joyful summer.

See you in September for another amazing year ahead!

Attendance

Children with poor attendance do less well at school.

Our whole school attendance target is **96%**.

If you are unsure on whether your child can come to school when they are ill please follow the link below: [NHS Guidance](#)

Nursery	- 93.7%
Reception	- 94.5%
Year 1	- 95.2%
Year 2	- 95.8%
Year 3	- 95.0%
Year 4	- 95.7%
Year 5	- 95.7%
Year 6	- 96.2%

Our whole school attendance for this year is **95.5%**.

24 children have **100%** attendance this academic year. A huge well done to them. They enjoyed a school trip to the park. See photos below.

A really big thank you to all the **parents** who ensure their children attend school every day.

From next year every holiday needs to be booked during our school holidays, fines will be given out for parents who take term time holidays. Attached are the term dates for next academic year.



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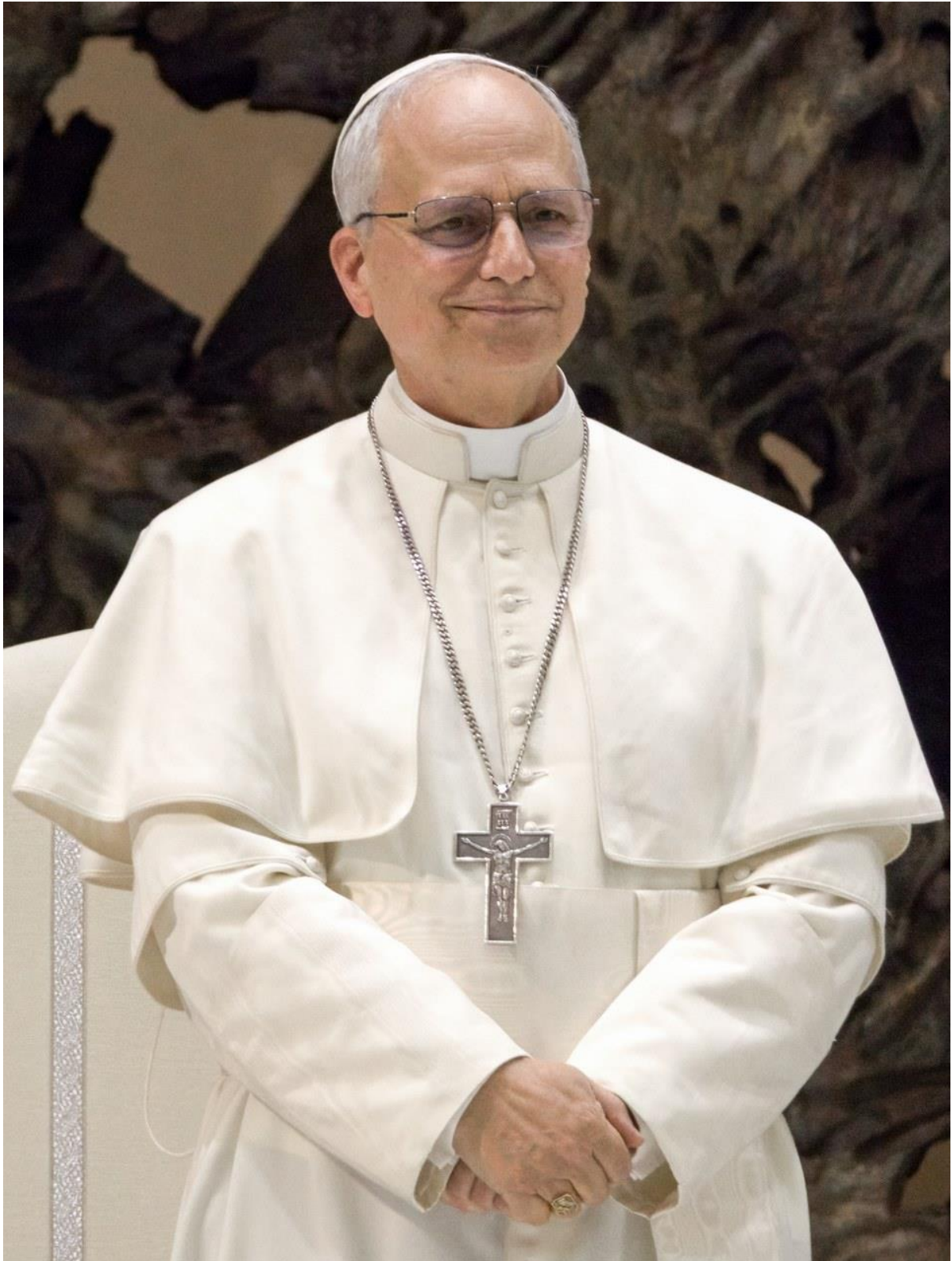
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Catholic Life and Mission



- A beautiful mass for Holy Communion took place with eight children and one staff member receiving the sacrament.

- Mrs McGowan celebrated Pentecost in Monday's worship. Known as the birthday of the church, each class celebrated by sharing a birthday cake within their classroom, symbolising our collective joy and unity as a school community.
- Wonderful celebrations that took place in honour of the Feast Day of St. Antony. The day commenced with a beautiful mass.
- In our Religious Education classes, the children engaged in an insightful exploration of the life of St. Antony. They learnt about his dedication to spreading the Good News, the values he exemplified throughout his life and the importance of service to others. The afternoon activities included ice-cream and a bouncy castle.
- Refugee Week was celebrated in school and began with a whole school worship encouraging us to reflect upon the importance of solidarity and empathy towards those who seek refuge.
- The Catholic Social Teaching principle of focus was solidarity. Through the exploration of scripture in RE lessons, our children understand the values of compassion and community, both of which are fundamental to our faith and the wider society. Additionally, our Caritas ambassadors participated in the Food Festival at the ARC Refugee Centre. This project not only celebrates the diverse cultures that enrich our local area of Blackburn but also allows our children to experience the joy of sharing and connecting with others.
- Bob Turner delivered workshops for Year 4 and Year 5 on behalf of CAFOD.
- Sustainability conference attended at Blackburn Rovers Football Club by the ECO team. The children took part in eco workshops and were reminded of our duty as stewards of creation.
- A Year 2 pupil was nominated for the Individual Winner category in the Laudato Si Award where he came 2nd.



From Playground to Kitchen

Our Gardening and Eco Team has been busy growing a variety of fruits and vegetables in our school garden. From planting seeds to harvesting fresh produce, students have learned valuable skills about sustainability and healthy eating. The fruits and vegetables they've grown, such as tomatoes, lettuce, potatoes, radish and strawberries, are now being used in our school kitchen. This hands on experience promotes awareness of sustainability while

providing nutritious ingredients for our meals, making a real difference in our school community.

Hopefully our carrots, onions and beetroot will be ready to harvest when we come back after the summer break.







Fundraising



- Lenten walk raised £129 (this has been donated to Cafod)
- Easter Raffle raised £40 (this has been donated to Caritas)
- Sponsored litter pick raised £159.73 (this will pay towards some EYFS outdoor provisions)
- Ice lolly sale raised £68.60 (this paid towards the nursery graduation hats and gowns)
- Year 6 production raised £143.11 (this went towards props for the production)
- Summer fair raised £566.05

Safeguarding and Useful Links

At St Antony's, we prioritise the safety and wellbeing of our students above all else. We encourage all parents to reach out if they have any concerns or need support during this time. Remember, safeguarding our children is a collective effort, and together we can create a safe and secure environment for all.

Below is some information on how to stay safe online and some helpful links:

[Domestic Violence Helpline](#)

[Wish Centre](#)

[Salvation Army](#)

[Mind](#)

[Kooth - Mental Health Support For Young Children](#)

[Andy's Man Hub - Mental Health support For Men](#)

[NSPCC Online Safety](#)

Farewell to Year 6





As you take your final steps at primary school, we want to say how proud we are of each and every one of you. You've worked hard, grown so much and created memories that will last a lifetime. Now, a brand new chapter begins!

Good luck on your next journey into secondary school. Embrace every opportunity, believe in yourselves and never stop being kind, curious and courageous. We know you'll achieve great things and make us all proud.

You'll always be part of our school family. Keep shining brightly, your future is full of endless possibilities!











St Antony's Nursery Graduation

What a fantastic day we had celebrating our amazing little graduates at St Antony's Nursery!

Our wonderful children beamed with pride as they wore their graduation caps and received their certificates, it's incredible to see how far they've come this year. From first day nerves to confident little stars, we couldn't be prouder!

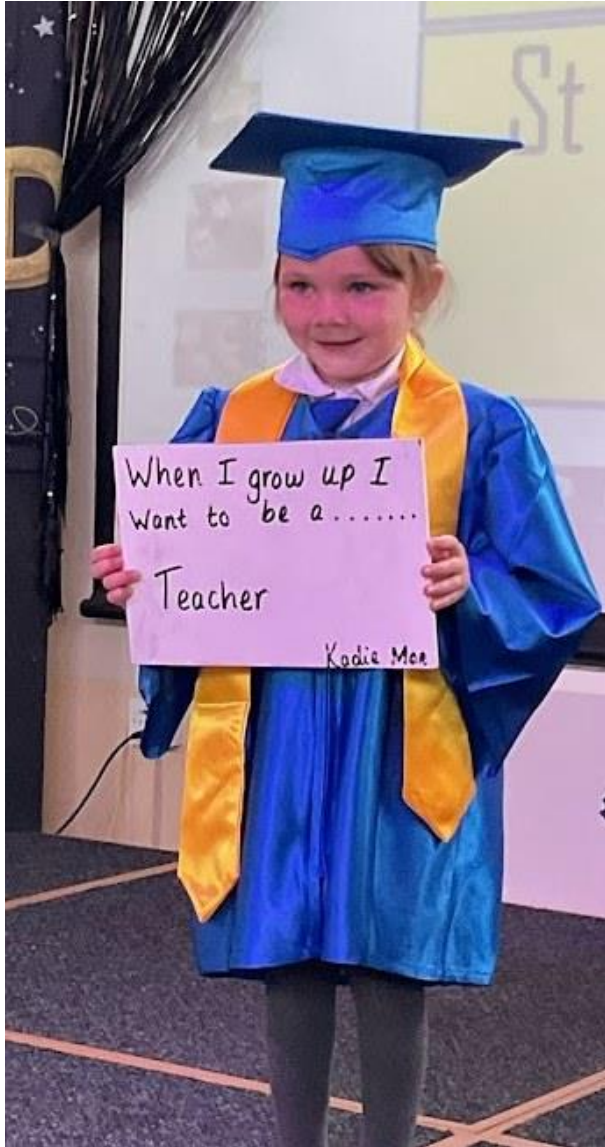
The highlight of the afternoon? A laugh out loud Punch and Judy show that had everyone giggling, grown-ups included! The children loved every moment and it was the perfect way to celebrate the end of their nursery journey.

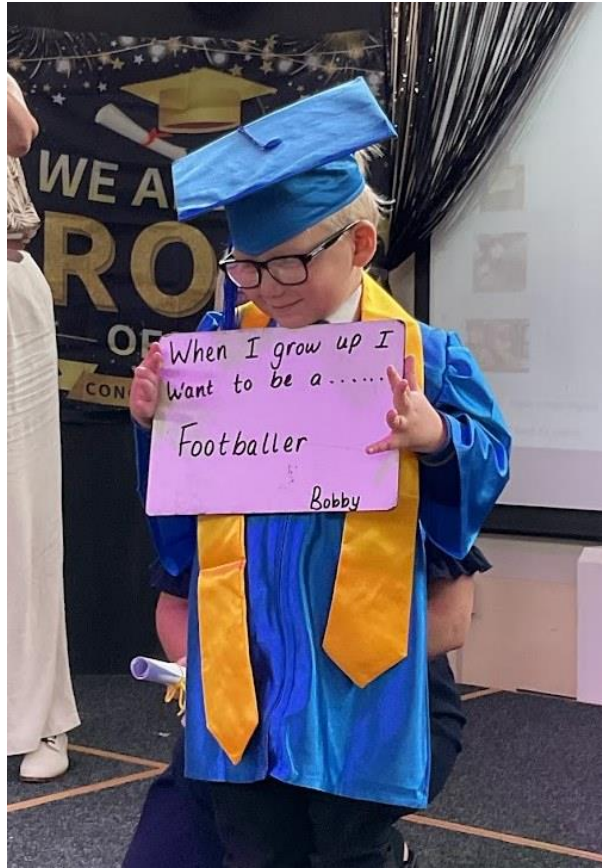
A huge thank you to our dedicated staff and supportive families for making this such a special chapter. Here's to big adventures ahead in Reception!

A massive thank you to the lovely parents who put so much effort into making it extra special for the children.















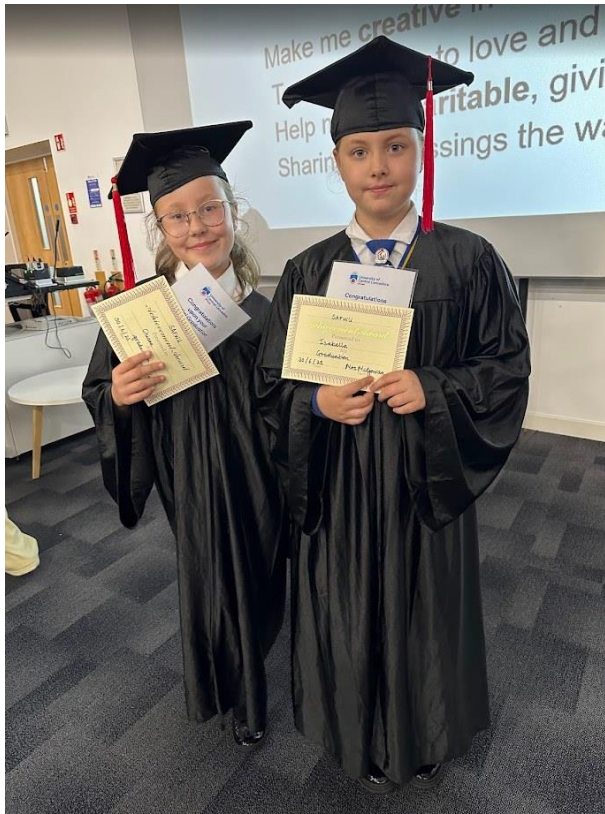
St Antony's Five Wells University

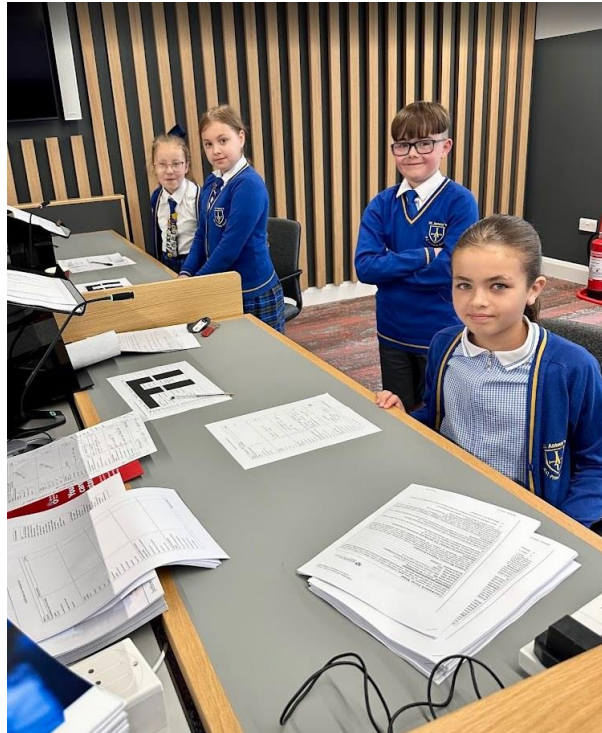


A very proud day in the history of St. Antony's RC Primary School. Our very first SAFWU graduation day! All of these wonderful and inspirational children filled their 5 Wells with 50 credits & graduated at @unilancashire yesterday. We were welcomed by Anna from [#widerparticipation](#) along with student ambassadors Harry & Camille, who hosted our event perfectly. A tremendous and memorable day was had by all. Congratulations SAFWU graduates 2025!

The more clubs children attend the more credits they will get and could have a chance at attending a graduation at UCLAN







Extra Curricular Clubs

Please see attached letter for the Wraparound Service from September 2025. We are proud to offer this service again to help and support our families with before and after school care at a great affordable price!

Please note that Breakfast Club will only be bookable on the school gateway app **(no cash)** from September 2025.

When making a booking please make sure you do the following:

Clubs-->Make bookings-->Add to basket--> Pay

In the case of a club being fully booked please do not try and pay. This will be refunded and the child will not be able to attend if the club is already full.

Keep a look out for our new "Super Sports clubs" arriving September 2025!

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School's Social Media



Have you followed us on Instagram and Facebook?

We will be posting lots more on there so please go ahead and like and share our page. As we now live in a media rich world, we will be using social media to promote our school. The Local Authority, the Diocese, local businesses and prospective parents all see these posts. Therefore they are important for us. **Children who do not have consent will not be posted on any photos going forward including Dojo.** I know there are very serious child protection reasons from some parents choosing not to have photos posted. However, by posting on dojo, I cannot guarantee who may screen shot a photo and post it elsewhere. There is just too much of a risk. You will be able to change your consent status at any time by contacting the school office.

Facebook - St Antony's R.C Primary

Instagram - stantonymsrc1

What's coming up next term?

- Children return to school on **Tuesday 2nd September**

Keep your eyes peeled on class dojo and the school website for more events.

[St Antony's Website Calendar](#)